

What is claimed is:

1. A cap for a cut end of a nail, comprising:
 - a) a lead-in tubular portion having an inner surface which defines a first diameter;
 - b) an engagement tubular portion having an inner surface which defines a second diameter smaller than said first diameter; and
 - c) a closed end at a proximal end of said engagement portion,wherein said cap is manufactured from a plastic radiopaque material.
2. A cap according to claim 1, wherein:

said plastic is resilient.
3. A cap according to claim 2, wherein:

said plastic is polyurethane.
4. A cap according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - d) an inner protuberance provided along said inner surface of said engagement portion.
5. A cap according to claim 1, wherein:

said lead-in portion is cylindrical.
6. A cap according to claim 5, wherein:

said engagement portion is cylindrical.

7. A cap according to claim 6, wherein:

said engagement portion is longer than said lead-in portion.

8. A cap according to claim 1, wherein:

said lead-in portion defines an inner diameter of approximately 0.080 – 0.092 inch.

9. A cap according to claim 1, wherein:

said engagement portion defines an inner diameter of approximately 0.070 – 0.084 inch.

10. A cap according to claim 1, wherein:

said cap has a length of approximately 0.285 - 0.310 inch.

11. A cap for a cut end of a nail, comprising:

- a) a lead-in tubular portion having an inner surface which defines a first diameter;
- b) an engagement tubular portion having an inner surface which defines a second diameter smaller than said first diameter;
- c) an inner protuberance provided along said inner surface of said engagement portion and directed substantially radially inward; and
- d) a closed end opposite said lead-in portion.

12. A cap according to claim 11, wherein:

said cap is manufactured from a plastic radiopaque material.

13. A cap according to claim 11, wherein:

said inner protuberance is a ring.

14. A cap according to claim 13, wherein:

said ring has a convex outer surface.

15. A cap according to claim 11, wherein:

said engagement portion has an inner surface defining a third diameter smaller than said second diameter, wherein said second diameter is provided distal of said protuberance and said third diameter is provided proximal of said protuberance.

16. A cap according to claim 11, wherein:

said lead-in portion has an inner diameter of approximately 0.080 – 0.092 inch.

17. A cap according to claim 11, wherein:

said engagement portion has an inner diameter of approximately 0.070 – 0.084 inch.

18. A cap according to claim 11, wherein:

said cap has a length of approximately 0.285 - 0.310 inch.

19. A cap for a cut end of a nail, comprising:

a resilient plastic cylindrically tubular element having a closed end and an inner surface, said tubular element having an inner diameter sized to be close fitting to the nail, a length at least approximately three times said inner diameter, and including an inner protuberance provided along said inner surface which frictionally engages the nail.

20. A cap according to claim 19, wherein

said plastic includes a radiopaque material.

21. A combination orthopedic nail and cap therefor, comprising:

a) a metal orthopedic nail having an end with a first diameter; and

b) a cap provided over said end of said nail,

said cap including a lead-in portion having an inner surface which defines a second diameter larger than said first diameter such that said lead-in portion is spaced apart from said end of said nail by a clearance, an engagement portion having an inner surface which defines a third diameter approximating said first diameter such that said engagement portion is substantially in contact with said nail, and a closed end.

22. A combination according to claim 21, wherein:

said end of said nail is a non-passivated cut end.

23. A combination according to claim 21, wherein:

said cap is manufactured from a plastic radiopaque material.

24. A combination orthopedic nail and cap therefor, comprising:

- a) a metal orthopedic nail having a first diameter and a cut end; and
- b) a radiopaque cap provided over said cut end of said nail,

said cap including a plastic cylindrically tubular element having a closed end and an inner surface, said tubular element having an inner second diameter sized to be close fitting to the nail, a length at least approximately three times said second diameter.

25. A method of covering an end of a metal orthopedic nail, comprising:

- a) implanting the orthopedic nail into a bone, said nail having an exposed end;
- b) providing a radiopaque plastic cap over the end of the nail; and
- c) seating the end of the nail and the cap beneath the skin.

26. A method according to claim 25, further comprising:

prior to placing the cap, cutting the exposed end of the nail such that providing the cap over the end of the nail provides the cap over a cut end of the nail.